



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

MEDIA ADVISORY – for immediate release, 1st December 2011

- **Councillor Brian Goodall of Fife Council elected new NFLA Chair**
- **Northern Ireland Environment Minister welcomes the different energy and nuclear non-proliferation visions of the NFLA**

At its Annual General Meeting (AGM) last Friday in Newry, the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) elected Councillor Brian Goodall from Fife Council as its new Steering Committee Chair and official spokesperson (1).

Councillor Goodall takes over from Dundee Councillor Bailie George Regan and was elected unanimously by councillors from across Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. Councillor Goodall is the 12th chair of the NFLA and takes the organisation into its fourth decade of representing local authorities from across the five countries across all aspects of nuclear policy, energy policy and the international campaign for a nuclear weapons free world in association with organisations like the Mayors for Peace and KIMO International.

The AGM agreed affiliation rates for 2012/13, endorsed its 2012 Service Plan and approved an updated and widened constitution. The AGM also warmly thanked Bailie Regan for his service as NFLA Chair.

At an accompanying Annual Policy Briefing Seminar, the NFLA heard from the Northern Ireland Environment Minister Alex Attwood MLA. He noted his own personal commitment and support for the NFLA and discussed the wider concerns in Northern Ireland over the development of new nuclear reactors in England and Wales. He outlined the Northern Ireland Government's vision for developing an imaginative energy policy that seeks to co-operate with the UK, the Republic of Ireland, Scottish and Welsh Governments on the promotion of renewable energy across the two islands.

In an excellent high-quality seminar other presentations were given by Grattan Healy, a founder member of the National Offshore Wind Association of Ireland on the great potential for renewable energy in Britain and Ireland; James Orr, the Director of Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland on the 'Green New Deal for Northern Ireland' and its positive role across Britain and Ireland; and Rick Nickerson, the Policy Advisor for KIMO International, who outlined its recent report charting all the recent radioactive material shipments taking place across Northern Europe (2).

NFLA Chair Brian Goodall said:

"I am truly honoured to have been elected as the new Chair of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities. It is an organisation that I have been inspired by in the past, and it is a group that is as relevant now as it ever was. I will seek to drive it on further over the next few years to show the real benefits of non-nuclear energy alternatives and how, by working with our friends in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki-led Mayors for Peace, we can be part of the international coalition for a nuclear weapons free world. We have much work to be done, but I believe it is our arguments that are winning the public argument on the real benefits of a progressive renewable, non nuclear energy policy and the need for a nuclear weapons convention and nuclear weapons free world. Both are eminently desirable and now increasingly achievable."

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES



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Ends

For further information and interview opportunities contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on 00 44 (0)161 234 3244 or 00 44 (0)7771 930196.

Notes for editors:

- (1) Councillor Goodall has been Fife Council's NFLA representative since 2009. He was elected as NFLA Chair at the NFLA AGM in Newry and Mourne District Council Offices on Friday 25th November.
- (2) The presentations and photographs from the NFLA Annual Policy Briefing are available on request from the NFLA Secretary through email address s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk and they are being placed on the NFLA website – <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info> in the next few days.

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